United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/31/TCD/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 August 2018
English
Original: French

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-first session
5–16 November 2018

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Chad

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GE.18-14288 (E) 130918 140918

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Introduction

1. As part of the third cycle of the universal periodic review, the Republic of Chad is submitting its third national report to the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. The present national report describes the steps taken by the Government of Chad since 2014 to promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms. It aims to highlight the progress that has been made and to set out the main challenges that have yet to be overcome. It then outlines the efforts made to implement the recommendations issued by States parties when Chad last appeared before the Human Rights Council, the challenges and constraints that necessitate the support of the international community and, lastly, the aims and expectations of the Government.

I. Report drafting process and methodology

3. The Government set itself the objective of producing a report that was based on consultations with and consensus among the various partners dealing with human rights.

4. The Interministerial Follow-up Committee on International Human Rights Agreements is composed of representatives of public institutions, such as ministries, the National Assembly and the National Human Rights Commission, representatives of civil society organizations and resource persons.

5. In order to ensure that the members of the Committee were properly informed about the outcomes of the second periodic review of Chad, they were invited to a briefing session on the recommendations as soon as the Chadian delegation had returned from Geneva. That session was followed by a day of discussions on the reconsideration of recommendations that had been rejected, in May 2015, and a day of follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made during the review, in November 2015.

6. During the preparation of the national report, civil society organizations were specifically invited to attend a workshop held on 28 and 29 December 2015 in order to contribute to the grid setting out the national action plan on the universal periodic review. Thanks to their contribution, representatives of government bodies were able to draw up an action plan for the implementation of the recommendations made during the review, which was then approved at a workshop held in February 2016.

II. Improvements in the legal and institutional framework and cooperation with United Nations mechanisms

7. In its drive to promote and defend human rights, Chad has ratified several legal instruments that were not mentioned in the recommendations made during the 2014 review.

A. Conventions ratified independently of recommendations

8. Chad has ratified the following four major legal instruments:

- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. The purpose of this regional court is to protect human rights and freedoms in Africa. Its work strengthens and supplements that of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, a legal instrument for the prevention and punishment of human trafficking.
- The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption.

B. Conventions recommended for ratification

9. Chad is in the process of ratifying four of the eight conventions that were mentioned in recommendations, namely:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The bill on ratification was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 June 2018.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The bill on ratification was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21 June 2018.

10. The ratification of these legal instruments will strengthen the existing framework for the protection of persons living in precarious circumstances or facing dire situations.

C. Newly adopted national legislation

11. Since the last review cycle, in 2014, Chad has made huge progress in adopting human rights laws and regulations. The texts that have been adopted, while they complement one another, can be grouped by theme.

- Firstly, the National Human Rights Commission has been reformed to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles, under Act No. 026/PR/2017 of 30 December 2017 and Ordinance No. 024/PR/2018 of 27 June 2018 on the Commission's responsibilities, organization and functioning. As a result of this Act, the Commission now benefits from real independence from the executive branch and financial autonomy, which ensures its credibility and its effectiveness in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Commission has also been recognized in the Constitution as a major institution of the Republic. Since this reform, the Government has been working to make the Commission operational, by issuing an order on the procedure for the appointment of its members and by publishing a guidance note for civil society organizations. The process of establishing a new National Human Rights Commission is therefore well and truly under way.
- Secondly, legislation has been adopted with a view to ensuring the proper administration of criminal justice in Chad and helping to improve the conditions faced by defendants and detainees. This legislation amends the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, bringing them into line with the relevant human rights conventions that have been ratified by Chad. For example, under the new Criminal Code, the death penalty can no longer be imposed for ordinary offences. Mindful of the need to make prison conditions more humane, the Government has also adopted Act No. 019/PR/2017 of 28 July 2017, on the prison system.
- Thirdly, several texts on specific aspects of human rights have been adopted, such as:
    - Ordinance No. 006/PR/2018 of 30 March 2018 on combating human trafficking in Chad, which supplements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which Chad has ratified.
    - Act No. 029/PR/2015 of 21 July 2015 prohibiting child marriage, which is intended as a legal means of combating this problem, which has a significant physical and psychological impact on thousands of Chadian girls.

- Decree No. 142/PR/2014 of 19 February 2014 on the implementation of Act No. 008/PR/2013 of 10 May 2013 on civil status in Chad, which has contributed to the development of the legal framework governing civil status. This decree helps to give effect to the Act on civil status, which provides certain legal guarantees for persons born or living in Chad, whether they are Chadians, foreign nationals or refugees.

- Consumers are protected by Act No. 005/PR/2015 of 4 February 2015 on the protection of consumer rights. Consumer protection has become a major issue for all countries, especially developing ones. This issue covers at once the right to protection of health and social security, the right to protection of economic interests, the right to reparation for damages and the right to information and education.

- Chad is also tackling concerns relating to cybercrime, electronic data security and personal data protection. The National Assembly adopted three laws on these subjects in February 2014:

  - Act No. 009/PR/2014 of 10 February 2014 on combating cybercrime.

  - Act No. 007/PR/2014 of 14 February 2014 on personal data protection.

  - Act No. 006/PR/2014 of 10 February 2014 on the establishment of the National Agency for Cybersecurity and Electronic Certification.

D. National human rights policies and strategies

12. Many national and sectoral policies and strategies that are currently being implemented in Chad contain relevant provisions on the need to promote and defend human rights. This illustrates the Government's commitment to tackling human rights issues, as a priority. One key policy document is the 2017–2021 National Development Plan, which was adopted in June 2017 with the aim of boosting national development in order to achieve emerging country status by 2030. Two of the strategic priorities defined in this plan concern human rights. Specifically, the second strategic priority is to increase civil society participation in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of public policies, and the fourth strategic priority is to improve the health system, the education system and living conditions. It should also be noted that a national coordinating committee tasked with monitoring progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals was set up under the authority of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development Planning in March 2018; it brings together representatives of all entities involved in development, including the Government, the parliament, civil society and the private sector, to monitor efforts to achieve the Goals, many of which deal with human rights issues.

13. Since the previous review, Chad has opted for a development policy that focuses on empowering women, combating violence and all forms of discrimination and ensuring that gender is taken into account in decision-making bodies and the composition of electoral lists. Several initiatives have been launched for the empowerment of women, including displaced and refugee women, and for the reduction of poverty. Two documents on these issues have been drawn up, namely the National Gender Policy, which was adopted in 2016, and the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence. The National Gender Policy led to the issuing of Ordinance No. 012/PR/2018 of 22 May 2018, which established rules for gender parity in elections and appointments to office in the country.

14. Numerous policies and strategies have been put in place in the field of health. These include the National Health Policy, the National Strategy for Universal Health Coverage and the National Strategy on Community Health. Their aim is to make all health services accessible.

15. It is also worth noting the policies and programmes of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, which not only provide a framework for action, but also allow Chad to receive various types of support from technical and financial partners, including for the promotion and defence of human rights. Examples include the 2018–2027 Justice Sector Policy and the Programme to Support Justice in Chad (PRAJUST II), which are designed to

help the Government establish a legal system that ensures access to justice for all Chadians, while strengthening the courts and improving governance in the country. A specific module on human rights has been incorporated into the training provided for future judges and registrars at the National Institute of Judicial Training. This will give them a good grounding in human rights issues and ensure that they take human rights into account in the legal decisions that they are required to make in the course of their work.

16. As part of the implementation of the Interim Strategy on Juvenile Justice, specific training modules on the rights of children and child psychology have been introduced for juvenile judges, prosecutors and senior police officers.

17. Lastly, the Government has taken the initiative of introducing data-collection tools with a view to publishing statistical yearbooks on justice, health and education. Statistics, long considered the Achilles heel of public policy analysis, are increasingly used by the Government.

E. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

18. In an effort to promote and protect human rights, a ministry dedicated to that purpose was established by the country's highest authorities in 2005. However, in order to promote synergy within the Government, that ministry was merged with the Ministry of Justice in 2014 to become the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Within this government department, it is the Human Rights Directorate that is responsible for initiating and coordinating action to promote and protect human rights. The Directorate thus plays a key role when it comes to human rights information, guidance, education and outreach.

Military justice system

19. The military justice system is one of the innovations provided for by the Constitution of 4 May 2018. According to section X, its jurisdiction covers all offences committed by members of the military and breaches of State security. The military justice system will thus serve as a deterrent for certain members of the military who otherwise might commit human rights violations.

Supreme Court

20. The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court will continue, firstly, to rule on the constitutionality of laws, treaties and international agreements, and, secondly, to settle disputes relating to presidential and legislative elections and to ensure the proper conduct of referendums and announce their results.

21. The Government is pleased to announce that the Constitutional Chamber, in its new role, will also be required to review all legislation that deals with public freedoms and human rights. It will thus contribute significantly to the protection of human rights in Chad.

Judicial pool for the punishment of economic and financial offences

22. A judicial pool tasked with preventing and punishing economic and financial offences and contributing to fiscal consolidation is being set up, on the recommendation of the National Forum for Inclusion, with a view to improving governance and strengthening the rule of law. This pool will support the Government in its efforts to combat corruption and abuse of official authority, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, ratified by Chad on 21 May 2018.

F. Cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures

23. Since its last appearance before the Human Rights Council, Chad has stepped up its cooperation with the United Nations special procedures. In addition to the standing invitation issued in 2012, it has extended specific invitations to three working groups,

namely on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, on the independence of judges and lawyers and on education.

24. It was at the Government's insistence that the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice and the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination visited Chad in December 2017 and April 2018, respectively.

25. The Government also received the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, who organized a training session on the work of the Court, and Ms. Fatou Bensouda, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

26. Lastly, the Government has prepared and submitted the following reports to United Nations treaty bodies: the common core document, the second periodic report under the Convention against Torture, the fourth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the combined third to sixth periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

27. At the regional level, the Government has submitted reports under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

III. Progress in the field of human rights since the previous cycle of the universal periodic review

A. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and measures to combat discrimination against women

28. Generally speaking, the laws and regulations and the various development policies adopted since 2014 emphasize the need to address women and men without any discrimination.

29. More specifically, with Ordinance No. 012 of 22 May 2018, the Government established a requirement for gender parity in elections and appointments to office. Article 2 of this text stipulates that a quota of at least 30 per cent of appointed offices must be reserved for women. The aim is to progressively increase this quota in order to achieve parity. As regards election to office, article 3 establishes that women must account for at least 30 per cent of the names on any list of candidates for legislative or local elections.

30. The appointments that have been made since the publication of this Ordinance show that it is starting to be implemented. This Ordinance is one of the responses to resolutions 2, 8, 9 and 11 of the National Forum for Inclusion held in March 2018, an event where the issues of equality and non-discrimination were discussed at length.

31. Besides legislation promoting equality and non-discrimination, a road map prohibiting child marriage and genital mutilation was adopted by the Government in April 2016. It is also worth mentioning the appeals made by the Ministry responsible for women's affairs to the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.

32. A number of projects aim to help women to progressively gain independence and to achieve equality, such as the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project and the microcredit fund for women and young persons. In addition, the Women's Centre has drawn up an action plan and runs various activities with the aim of combating gender-based violence, inequality and discrimination against women.

33. Lastly, women also benefit from initiatives such as the entrepreneurship programme run by the National Office for Youth and Sport, support for unemployed graduates and women wishing to develop income-generating activities and the social reintegration support provided by the National Employment Promotion Office, and the agromechanization project involving the provision of tractors, which has been piloted by the National Agency

for Rural Development. It is worth noting the advocacy work carried out by several women's organizations, led by the Chadian Association of Women Lawyers, to promote access to land for women. As a result of this advocacy, several hectares of cultivable land have been made available to women in regions such as Salamat, Hadjer-Lamis, Logone Oriental, Logone Occidental, Moyen-Chari and Mandoul.

Environmental issues

34. Chad is increasingly confronted with the effects of climate change, including decreased rainfall, a decline in production, floods, deforestation, the shrinking of Lake Chad and other lakes, drying up of waterways, siltation, rapid desertification, loss of plant cover, extinction of some species of animals and fish and pressure on pastureland, which worsens conflicts between livestock herders and farmers and causes rural flight.

35. Legislation adopted by the Government before 2014 to address these problems includes Act No. 14/PR/98, setting out general environmental principles; Act No. 14/PR/2008, regulating forests, fauna and fishery resources; and Act No. 016/PR/2015 of 20 July on research and seed improvement. The Government has also banned the use of non-degradable plastics and firewood, set up a joint task force for the enforcement of environmental protection and introduced butane gas subsidies.

36. The country's active participation in regional and international environmental bodies also demonstrates the importance that it attaches to environmental issues. Indeed, Chad is a member of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Niger River Basin Authority (NBA), the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Economic Commission on Livestock, Meat and Fishery Resources (CEBEVIRHA), the project for the protection of the Congo basin and the project for the diversion of water from the Ubangi River to replenish Lake Chad; it also has a National Environment Fund.

37. As regards the protection of rare species, the Government has taken measures to ensure the full protection of manatees in Lake Léré and has reintroduced the oryx in the Ouadi Rimé-Ouadi Achim wildlife reserve and the rhinoceros in Zakouma national park.

38. Chad is the first African country to have acceded to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of 1992, under the aegis of the secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Human rights and counter-terrorism

39. The State's commitment to the core principles of human rights, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 1981, features prominently in the preambles to its successive constitutions, including the Constitution that is currently in force. Chapter I of Section II of the Constitution of 4 May 2018 is devoted to fundamental rights and freedoms.

40. Despite the country's commitment to protecting human rights, it was subjected to three successive attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram in N'Djamena in 2015. A total of 38 people were killed and 181 were injured. In response to these despicable acts, which constituted serious and flagrant violations of human rights, Chad, which had already joined forces with Mali to combat the jihadis, deployed additional troops in order to continue the fight both in its territory and in neighbouring countries.

41. Chad has been forced to take the following measures domestically:

- Adoption of Act No. 034/PR/2015 of 5 August 2015 on the prevention and punishment of acts of terrorism.
- Establishment of a judicial pool specializing in counter-terrorism.
- Strengthening of the security presence throughout the national territory.
- Establishment of a transit and guidance centre for children associated with the terrorist group Boko Haram, in the Lac Region.

- Provision of training for the various participants in the criminal justice system and for the administrative staff of the Ministry of Justice, on processing and handling of cases involving terrorism.

42. At the international level, Chad deployed 3,000 troops to Mali under the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

43. Alongside its purely military commitments, Chad has taken the following measures to strengthen its judicial cooperation:

- Signing of a tripartite judicial cooperation agreement between Chad, the Niger and Mali.
- Conclusion of the Convention on security and development of the Sahel, the G-5 Sahel.
- Exchange of information between States affected by acts of terrorism.
- Involvement in the Regional Judicial Platform of the Sahel countries.
- Ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

44. The Act on the prevention and punishment of acts of terrorism, which was adopted in the wake of repeated terrorist attacks on the Chadian capital in 2015, is currently being reviewed, with technical support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and PRAJUST II, in order to ensure compliance with international counter-terrorism standards. This shows that the Government is keen to combat terrorism while respecting human rights, for example by dropping the use of the death penalty also in cases of terrorism.

B. Civil and political rights

Presidential elections

45. After its last periodic review, Chad held presidential elections. The election process, which was based on the political agreement of 13 August 2007 and the subsequent agreement of May 2014, involved all those wishing to contend for the presidency, including representatives of both the ruling party and the democratic opposition. In order to promote transparency, credibility and mass participation in the election, Chad used biometrics for the first time throughout the election process, from voter registration through the voting procedure. As a result, the vote of 10 April 2016, in which resulted the incumbent was re-elected, was deemed transparent, free and credible by the various participants involved in the process and by international observers.

National Forum for Inclusion

46. The National Forum for Inclusion was held in N'Djamena from 19 to 27 March 2018 with the aim of strengthening democracy and enabling the State to operate more effectively. The reforms proposed by the 1,169 participants, who came from within and outside the country, concerned six main areas of interest, namely:

- The structure of the State.
- The reorganization of the country's major political institutions.
- The parliamentary system.
- Reforms to strengthen peace, national unity, stability, the rule of law and good governance.
- Judicial reform.
- The advancement of women and young people.

47. The Forum concluded with the adoption of 74 resolutions and 5 recommendations, some of which concerned the promotion and protection of human rights. There were three resolutions on the reforms needed to strengthen peace, national unity, stability, the rule of law and good governance and the granting of constitutional status to the National Human Rights Commission as an independent administrative authority; eight resolutions on the advancement of women; nine on the advancement of young people and two on the situation of persons with disabilities.

Political dialogue

48. The ruling and opposition parties have reworked the National Framework for Political Dialogue, which now serves as the foundation for political decision-making based on consensus. The status of the opposition is now enshrined in the country's Constitution. Furthermore, in order to foster political dialogue, a general amnesty for all political opponents in exile was declared in Ordinance No. 19/PR/2018, of 23 May 2018.

Freedom of movement

49. In accordance with a resolution of the National Forum for Inclusion, the Government has removed illegal roadblocks in order to facilitate the free movement of people and goods within the country.

Freedom of the press

50. The Government has taken several measures to help ensure freedom of the press in Chad. This freedom is enshrined in article 28 of the Constitution of the Fourth Republic and governed by the conditions set forth in Act No. 17/PR/2010 of 5 March 2010 on the regulation of the press in Chad. The press liberalization policy has allowed new public and private media outlets to emerge, both in the field of the written press and in the audiovisual sphere. Lastly, the High Council on Communication has been replaced by the High Authority for Media and Broadcasting, a regulatory body whose mandate has been adjusted in order to promote freedom of the press.

Right to strike

51. The right to strike is considered a fundamental right. It is recognized in article 30 of the Constitution currently in force and governed in practice by Act No. 032/PR/2016 of 12 November 2016 on the right to strike in the public services sector, and by the Labour Code of 31 March 1996. Public servants and private sector workers do not hesitate to make use of this right in order to claim better working and living conditions.

Right to protest

52. The right to protest is recognized in article 28 of the Constitution. All persons have the right to protest and to organize demonstrations with respect for the freedoms and rights of others and the critical need to safeguard national unity and to maintain public order and uphold moral standards. Given the fragility of the country's social fabric in the face of the terrorist threat, it is difficult to authorize protest marches because of the risk that they might be infiltrated by rogue elements trying to cause chaos.

Collective remission of sentences

53. The President regularly grants presidential pardons to allow for the collective remission of detainees' sentences. Remission of this kind has no impact on financial penalties or damages. The humanitarian aspect of presidential pardons is indisputable; they serve not only to reduce overcrowding in prisons, but also to offer a second chance to detainees who have demonstrated good behaviour. To cite an example, 590 inmates at Amsinéné prison in N'Djamena have thus been pardoned in 2018.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

Poverty reduction

54. Chad has been classified as one of the poorest countries in the world. Its annual population growth of 3.6 per cent continues to pose a major challenge, while the vulnerability of women and children is exacerbated by regional instability and the negative impact of global factors such as climate change, the global economic crisis and sociocultural constraints.

55. In terms of human development indicators, Chad was ranked 186th out of 187 countries in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report of 2015. The average life expectancy in Chad is 50 years. The country's poverty is perpetuated by both short-term and structural factors. Having long been dependent on agriculture and livestock farming, the Chadian economy was boosted by oil production in 2003 but has been in decline since 2015 owing to the fall in oil prices on the international market.

56. In spite of its efforts, the Government continues to face major budgetary challenges as a result of the significant costs of countering terrorism and ensuring the functioning of the State. In response, it has taken various measures to combat poverty, such as the adoption of the 2017–2021 National Development Plan. A forum was organized in Paris to raise funding from technical and financial partners for the implementation of this policy, which is a genuine tool for development planning. The pledges made as a result of that event amounted to around US$ 24 billion.

Promoting the right to education

57. The Government views the education sector as a priority. With support from technical and financial partners, Chad has launched a number of training, retraining and capacity-building initiatives for staff. For example, 38,905 primary school teachers, of whom 81.7 per cent were men and 18.3 per cent were women, received training between 2014 and 2016; 307 teachers have been assigned to the various refugee camps, 1,409 classrooms have been refurbished and 7,513 new classrooms have been built for primary schools. More than 5,249,126 school textbooks have been produced and distributed to primary schools free of charge by the National Curriculum Centre, and a gender-sensitive approach has been introduced in the education system, as follows:

- Support is provided to parents living in poverty to help them cover their daughters' school fees.
- Girls are encouraged to study sciences and steps have been taken to reduce the domestic burden faced by child mothers.
- A tutoring programme has been set up.
- Information campaigns have been held.

58. By means of social mobilization and community awareness-raising efforts, Chad has also provided education for many refugee children in the various camps throughout the country, under a specific national programme. Likewise, specific education services are provided for vulnerable children in nomadic and island communities, in accordance with their situation.

Promoting the right to health

59. The health sector, like the education sector, receives constant attention from the Government. A national health policy is in place, and the Head of State chairs a monthly meeting on the state of public health in Chad, which brings together all those who are involved in the health sector, whether at the national or the international level. Since 2014, the Government has worked tirelessly to improve medical facilities and to build the capacities of health-care workers. Some treatments have been made free of charge for mothers and children. Antiretroviral drugs, anti-tuberculosis drugs, haemodialysis and the insecticide-treated nets that are used to combat malaria, the leading cause of death in Chad,

are also available free of charge. Studies are being conducted with a view to introducing universal health coverage.

60. The measures taken by the Government have led to noticeable improvements in public health. According to the findings of the 2014–2015 multiple indicator demographic and health survey, since 2004, the maternal mortality ratio has dropped from 1,099 deaths per 100,000 live births to 860; the infant mortality rate has fallen from 102 deaths per 1,000 live births to 72; and the infant and child mortality rate has decreased from 191 deaths per 1,000 live births to 133. Moreover, no major epidemics, such as meningitis and cholera, have been registered since 2012.

61. In spite of these encouraging findings, the Government remains vigilant and has continued to concentrate on ways to improve the performance and resilience of the national health system.

Promoting the right to culture

62. Several activities have been organized by the Government since 2014 to promote the right to culture, including the resoundingly successful festival of Saharan culture, which was held in 2017 and 2018 and attracted delegations from both European and Saharan countries. In addition, a number of sites in Chad, such as the Ennedi Massif, the Guelta d'Archeï and the Lakes of Ounianga, have been included on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Lake Chad basin and Zakouma National Park are in the process of being registered on the List.

63. The Government is drawing up a register of artists and their works with a view to raising the profile of Chadian culture around the world.

64. Lastly, as far as facilities are concerned, reading and cultural activity centres throughout the country have been renovated and provided with equipment.

D. Rights of specific groups

Women's rights

65. The Government has indisputably made efforts to promote and protect the rights of women. Indeed, women's rights featured prominently in the resolutions of the National Forum for Inclusion of March 2018. The current Criminal Code, which was adopted in May 2017, establishes penalties for violence against women. Women are also protected by several key provisions of Ordinance No. 006/PR/2018 of 30 March 2018 on combating human trafficking.

66. Lastly, the Government has adopted Ordinance No. 012/PR/2018 of 22 May 2018 on gender parity in elections and appointments to office in Chad.

Rights of the child

67. Among the various actions taken by the Government since 2014 to further the promotion and protection of children's rights, it is worth noting Ordinance No. 06/PR/2015 of 15 March, prohibiting child marriage; the Interim Strategy on Juvenile Justice; and the action plan for the removal of children from armed forces and groups. This action plan, which is still being implemented, has allowed the Chadian National Army to rescue several children who have been involved with Boko Haram in the Lake Chad region.

IV. Implementation of the recommendations made in 2014

A. Interaction with international human rights protection mechanisms and ratification

1. Ratification of conventions (recommendations 1–30 and 89)

68. The Government of Chad has continued its ratification efforts, in keeping with the recommendations issued during the universal periodic review in 2014. The Government has begun the process of ratifying four conventions.

2. Integration of the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into national legislation (recommendation 19)

69. In order to bring domestic legislation into line with the Rome Statute, the Government has integrated the crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court into articles 285 ff. of its new Criminal Code and has introduced penalties for such crimes. Provision is made for cooperation with the International Criminal Court in Book IV, Title IV, Chapter IV, of the Code of Criminal Procedure (arts. 570–589). Military leaders are liable for crimes committed by any subordinates under their authority, and the national courts now have jurisdiction over the four crimes covered by the International Criminal Court.

B. Institutional and legislative reforms (recommendations 31–53, 61, 67, 68, 81, 86, 93, 94 and 97)

1. Adoption of legislation to protect women and children (recommendations 21, 32, 33 and 61)

70. Notwithstanding the persistence of sociocultural constraints, the Government has given priority to the recommendations to adopt domestic legislation for the protection of women and children. In order to fulfil these recommendations, a series of actions have been carried out specifically to review, hold consultations on and raise social and political stakeholders' awareness of the draft family and personal code and the draft children's code. Pending adoption of the codes, the Government has introduced specific legislation to protect these members of society, including the following:

- Ordinance No. 006/PR/2018 of 30 March 2018 on combating human trafficking in Chad
- Act No. 029/PR/2015 of 27 July 2015 ratifying Ordinance No. 006/PR/2015 of 14 March 2015 on the prohibition of child marriage in Chad
- Act No. 001/PR/2017 of 8 May 2017 on the Criminal Code, which includes provisions penalizing violence against women and children

2. Reform of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (recommendations 40–53)

71. Following the second universal periodic review, the Government of Chad brought the National Human Rights Commission into compliance with the Paris Principles by adopting Act No. 026/PR/2017 of 30 December 2017. This Act guarantees the Commission's independence and financial autonomy. Furthermore, the new Constitution elevates the Commission's status, recognizing it as a key institution of the Republic. Another ordinance was thus signed in order to bring Act No. 026 into compliance with the Constitution.

3. Abolishing the death penalty and prohibiting torture (recommendations 93, 94 and 97)

72. The new Criminal Code of 2017 abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes. The death penalty is still applicable, for crimes relating to acts of terrorism only, under Act No. 034/PR/2015 of 5 August 2015. The Act is currently under review, and the Government is in support of abolishing the death penalty completely.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights (recommendations 150–172)

1. Combating poverty and improving living standards (recommendations 150–157)

73. The numerous steps taken by the Government to combat poverty in Chad are supported by its technical and financial partners. The National Development Plan provides a reference framework for these actions and is being implemented with support from the Donors' Forum. Public entities are all working, in their respective areas, towards reducing poverty. The National Employment Promotion Office, for instance, provides entrepreneurship training to young people, while the National Agency for Rural Development has launched several initiatives to improve agricultural management. The Government has also created a microcredit fund for women and young people. Technical and financial partners present in the field and working to reduce poverty include: the European Union, with several programmes funded by the European Development Fund; the United Nations agencies involved in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework; France, through the French Development Agency, AFD; as well as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, in actions aimed at empowering Chadian women.

2. Ensuring equal access to quality education for all (recommendations 158–164, 165, 166, 169, 170–172)

74. The education sector is always a priority for the Government. The following progress has been made towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal four and providing quality education for all at the primary level: 1,409 primary school classrooms were renovated and a further 7,513 built between 2015 and 2017, and 5,249,126 school textbooks were produced and distributed for free in the country's primary schools.

75. In terms of schooling for girls, several information campaigns on the importance of education for both girls and boys have been organized to mobilize public support and raise awareness among parents, decision makers and opinion leaders. Other actions have included: introducing a prize for girls who excel at school, helping impoverished parents to cover the costs of schooling for their daughters, mainstreaming gender within the education system, continuing with the mentoring and tutoring programme, encouraging girls to study science subjects, lightening the domestic workload of teenage mothers and adopting a national education strategy for young girls. These actions, implemented by the Government in partnership with UNICEF and the 2016–2021 Education component of the Sahel Women's Empowerment and Demographic Dividend Project, aim to ensure quality education for all and to eliminate gender disparity. The 2016–2021 Education component of this project is also testing out other ways of helping the Government to achieve its objective of tackling the disparity between girls and boys. As part of the new 2018–2020 Interim Strategy for Education in Chad, actions are being taken to increase the number of qualified teachers and care facilities and to improve and increase the capacity of such facilities.

3. Continuing to improve literacy in rural communities (recommendations 163, 165, 167 and 168)

76. To strengthen the country's literacy programme, the Government has put in place a three-level educational framework (level 1, level 2 and post-literacy) for drafting literacy textbooks. Literacy learning is provided in 37 languages, including the country's official languages. In addition to the Government's own services, a number of private and religious organizations, such as the Women's Associations' Information and Liaison Group, the

Chadian Association of Literacy, Linguistics and Bible Translation and the Summer Institute of Linguistics Chad (SIL Chad), run literacy programmes in both rural and urban communities. For the 2015–2016 period, 2,235 literacy centres were identified. Working with its partners, the Government has launched several projects and measures to promote literacy. These include: celebrating International Literacy Day every year on 8 September; organizing a week-long annual campaign to provide information and raise awareness of literacy issues among communities, opinion leaders and non-governmental organizations; and in 2014 establishing a fund for literacy and non-formal basic education, whose projects are now beginning implementation. Some literacy initiatives are conducted as part of other, broader projects, such as the Project Supporting Reform in the Education Sector, which works to improve the literacy of rural populations, and particularly women, and the Literacy and Vocational Learning Project, which covers literacy and non-formal education.

77. Lastly, considerable support for literacy has been provided through the Interim Strategy for Education and Literacy (2013–2017). This includes building and equipping 39,305 classrooms, purchasing school textbooks, providing other learning materials, capacity-building and supporting the Education Information and Management System.

4. Providing training and professional development to teachers to ensure quality education (recommendation 162)

78. To achieve the goal of quality education for all, the Government in 2015 and 2016 provided initial and further training to 38,905 primary school teachers, including 31,794 men (81.7 per cent) and 7,111 women (18.3 per cent), and subsequently ensured that the teachers were monitored and evaluated.

79. As part of the Project Supporting Reform in the Education Sector, 3,500 level 1 community teachers received training at the teacher training schools in Bongor, Laï, Pala and Koumra in 2017.

80. A further 4,500 community teachers will be recruited and trained in the country's 22 teacher training schools in 2018 and 2019 in order to reach the objective of training a total of 9,000 teachers, with financial support from the World Bank.

D. Civil and political rights

1. Improving detention conditions and putting an end to arbitrary detention (recommendation 100)

81. Since the country's previous universal periodic review, considerable progress has been made towards ending arbitrary detention in Chad. The new Code of Criminal Procedure requires there to be a lawyer or other person present from the preliminary investigation stage, failing which the proceedings are declared null and void. The Code is also innovative in terms of pretrial detention, which is set at 6 months in the case of ordinary criminal offences and one year in the case of serious ones.

82. Despite the particularly harsh economic climate, the Government has increased the food budget for detainees. In partnership with the European Union and as part of the Programme to Support Justice in Chad (PRAJUST II), the Ministry of Justice has undertaken a large-scale initiative to improve detention conditions and the living standards of detainees. In 2014, the Government also invested large amounts in instruction for prison staff, who were trained and subsequently deployed in the country's various prisons in 2017. Detainees have been separated based on their sex, age and district. A social reintegration programme for detainees in the country's 12 prisons is being implemented, with 200,000,000 CFA francs in funding provided by PRAJUST II.

2. Ongoing judicial reforms to combat impunity and serious human rights violations

83. Major progress has been made in this area since the country's last universal periodic review, particularly through the promulgation of the new Criminal Code and the new Code of Criminal Procedure, which transpose the main provisions of international human rights conventions into domestic law. In addition, the very first yearbook of judicial statistics has

been produced, with support from PRAJUST II. In terms of tackling impunity, a number of former agents of the Documentation and Security Directorate (DDS) who had committed serious human rights violations under former President Hissein Habré have been tried and convicted by the Chadian justice system. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has adopted a sectoral policy so that it can meet citizens' expectations in terms of access to the law and to justice.

3. Strengthening and universalizing access to the civil registry to ensure birth registration (recommendations 128, 130, 132, 133, 134 and 135)

84. Pursuant to Act No. 008/PR/2013 of 10 May 2013 on the organization of the civil registry in Chad, the Government, with assistance from its partners, has taken various steps to facilitate access to civil registration procedures for the inhabitants of all regions of the country, including refugees and displaced persons. These measures include training a large number of civil registry officers and staff and making logbooks available in refugee camps to make it easier to declare refugee children. Birth certificates are issued free of charge for children whose births are declared within one month. Community, religious and traditional leaders, as well as schoolteachers and Qur'anic teachers, judicial police officers and heads of youth associations, have received training to raise their awareness of the importance of civil registration.

E. Rights of vulnerable groups (recommendations 45–71, 91–92, 102–107, 109, 111, 114–120 and 174)

1. Strengthening the protection of the rights of women and children and combating female genital mutilation, rape and other violence against women (recommendations 45–71, 91–92, 146, 148–149, 102–107, 109, 111, 114–120 and 173)

85. Since 2014, the Government has constantly worked to strengthen the rights of women and children by applying articles 14 and 19 of the Constitution, which prohibit all forms of violence against human beings, and particularly female genital mutilation and other violence against women and children. The Criminal Code has been amended to include penalties for gender-based violence, in order to protect women against such acts. Rape is covered by and punishable under articles 349 and 350 of the Criminal Code. Article 318 of the Criminal Code provides severe penalties for those who carry out female genital mutilation and violence against children. Act No. 029/PR/2015 of 27 July 2015 on the prohibition of child marriage sets forth penalties for early or forced marriage. In addition, Ordinance No. 006/PR/2018 of 30 March 2018 further strengthens provisions to combat trafficking in persons, and particularly women and children.

86. In addition to its legislative responses, the Government has adopted the National Gender Policy and the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence to further harmonize its response to these persistent problems. It has also responded specifically to the difficulties encountered in certain regions where these practices are particularly entrenched. Each year, the Government runs an awareness-raising campaign with support from the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF. The Ministry of Social Action and private structures ensure that female victims of gender-based violence receive multidimensional care through help centres, clinics and legal assistance offices. By implementing a road map to combat female genital mutilation, the Government has managed to reverse the trend: the practice of female circumcision is declining, while that of performing initiation rites without cutting is on the rise.

87. Regarding children involved with armed forces and armed groups, there are no child soldiers within the ranks of the country's armed and security forces. Unfortunately, the rise of the Boko Haram terrorist network has caused a new phenomenon to emerge: that of child suicide bombers. To combat this, the Government and its partners have put in place a strategy to demobilize these children and reunite them with their parents through dedicated processing centres.

2. Protecting the rights of refugees and displaced persons (recommendations 102 and 174)

88. Chad is a host country in which both refugees and displaced people are protected. There are currently 619,440 refugees and 157,734 displaced people in the country, the majority of whom are women and children.

89. In response to the various forms of violence committed against women and girls living in the camps for displaced people and returnees in the Lake Chad region, the Government has coordinated its actions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees and Returnees. It has also set up the Detachment for the Protection of Humanitarian Workers and Refugees, which guarantees security in and around the camps and protects convoys of refugees returning to their countries of origin.

90. A bill on the status of refugees in Chad is currently being drawn up by the Government.

3. Promoting women's participation in decision-making bodies (recommendations 146 and 148–149)

91. At the National Forum for Inclusion in March 2018, eight resolutions were adopted concerning the empowerment of women, including the right of women to participate in public affairs. In accordance with these resolutions, Ordinance No. 012/PR/2018 of 22 May 2018 imposes a quota of at least 30 per cent of women in elections and appointments to office.

4. Ensuring the protection of persons with disabilities

92. There are 1,691,116 persons with disabilities in Chad, and they are afforded special protection by the Government through Act No. 07/PR/2007 of 9 May 2007. Measures to support persons with disabilities figure prominently in the National Development Plan 2017–2021. In addition, at the National Forum for Inclusion held in March 2018, two resolutions were adopted addressing their situation. On 21 June 2018, Chad ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was confirmed by the Council of Ministers.

V. Challenges that require the support of the international community

93. In respect of implementation of the recommendations, the Government regrets that such a large number of recommendations were issued. The fact that there are more than one hundred represents a practical hurdle to ensuring their full implementation. Implementation is also difficult owing to the lack of training of senior supervisory staff.

94. The international community must come together to provide substantial support to the Government of Chad in the form of capacity-building for national bodies, as well as technical and financial assistance. This would enable the Government to make the human rights sector a priority so that it can meet its objectives of good governance, peacebuilding, peaceful coexistence and security.

VI. Aims of the Government

95. The Government of Chad seeks to:

- Consolidate democracy and good governance, and strengthen the effectiveness of the State.
- Scale up the fight against poverty and social inequalities and exclusion.
- Support and monitor basic social services.

- Build peace, unity and national consensus.
- Continue to develop the rural sector, and ensure food and nutritional security.
- Strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of women and young people.
- Strengthen environmental protection.
- Continue to combat terrorism.

VII. Expectations of the Government with respect to its partners

96. In light of the fact that its resources have been limited by the country's economic and financial crisis and its commitment to combating terrorism, the Government of Chad calls on its partners to provide the support needed to:

- Build the institutional and operational capacities of the National Human Rights Commission.
- Build the institutional and operational capacities of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.
- Support the drafting of a national human rights plan.
- Support the drafting of a human rights education programme.
- Build the Government's capacities in the area of juvenile justice.
- Strengthen the Government's capacities so that it can draft and implement a national strategy for the judicial protection of women.

VIII. Conclusion

97. The Government of Chad would like to express its gratitude to the Human Rights Council for adopting the universal periodic review, which fosters a dynamic and interactive dialogue that has contributed to improving the global human rights situation. The efforts made by the Government at the legislative and institutional levels, as set out in this report, attest to its clear willingness to constantly improve the human rights situation in Chad.

98. Despite the many sociocultural, economic and financial obstacles that reduce and undermine these efforts, the Government of Chad stands ready to cooperate with technical and financial partners that are willing to assist it in its long-term endeavours to protect and promote human dignity.